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## Homeland agency boss returning to Purdue

By BRIAN WALLHEIMER  
[bwallheimer@journalandcourier.com](mailto:bwallheimer@journalandcourier.com)

March 10, 2008

Eric Dietz, Indiana's executive director for Homeland Security, will be stepping down and returning to Purdue University as a professor and researcher.

Dietz is the first executive director of Homeland Security in Indiana since the department was created in 2005. He had been associate director of the e-Enterprise Center at Discovery Park at Purdue prior to his appointment.

He's due to start back at Purdue on March 17.

Question: What are you planning to do when you come back to Purdue?

Answer: I'll be a faculty member in the College of Technology in the Computer Information Technology Department. I'll also be working with the Homeland Security Institute at Purdue helping with some of the research there.

I also have a defense background, so I'm hoping to do some work with defense-related projects.

Q: Why are you leaving Indiana Homeland Security?

A: I've been in an exchange agreement from Purdue. When I came down, I agreed to a two-year contract and we extended it another year. The third year will end on the first of April.

I did what I told the governor I set out to do. I think the state is ready to have a change. There's also that 15 hours of commute a week. I'll get that time back in my life.

Q: What did you accomplish in Homeland Security?

A: We organized and stood up the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. We built a national model for how states can handle their security issues.

We've built response plans. We've established an intelligence fusion center to organize law enforcement across the state and hopefully get bad guys off the streets faster. We established fire training for the state.

Q: What is the future for Indiana Homeland Security?

A: We need to consolidate some of the gains and continue with these requirement-driven goals. Before we go out and spend money on a program, we need to figure out what the requirements are and build a program to meet those requirements.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in coming back to Purdue?

A: I'm looking forward to having time to do some research on homeland security issues. There are some real issues out there that need our time.

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## **Crisis communications**

MUNCIE -- The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is putting its trust in Ball State University public relations students to develop its crisis communications, according to a press release.

Under the leadership of Robert Pritchard, an associate professor of journalism who directs the university's public relations program, a seven-member student team from Cardinal Communications is researching and assembling a crisis communications protocol for IDHS. Cardinal Communications is Ball State's full-service, student-run public relations and advertising firm.

The target date for completing the project is late April or early May, after students finish contacting public information officers around the country to determine what is considered most successful in terms of crisis communication planning.

Ball State previously worked with IDHS in 2007, when students majoring in telecommunications and journalism spent a semester writing, shooting and editing eight 30-second, black-and-white video segments designed to educate viewers on the precautionary steps to take before an emergency occurs.

The "Take Responsibility" messages continue to air on broadcast and cable television channels statewide. The spots will rotate throughout the year, depending on the focus of the message and how it correlates with the weather of a particular season.

## **McGovern Lecture**

MUNCIE -- The Department of Physiology and Health Science will have its annual John P. McGovern Lecture at 7 p.m. March 18 at the Ball State University Alumni Center.

William Yarber, a senior research fellow at The Kinsey Institute for Research on Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, will present his lecture "While We Stood By: The Limiting of Sexual Health Information for Our Youth."

Yarber is a professor of applied health science and gender studies at Indiana University, Bloomington, where he is also a senior director of the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention. He authored the country's first secondary school AIDS prevention curriculum and has won numerous awards for his research and publications.

Made possible by the generosity of John McGovern, the lecture honors an individual who has made a significant impact on the health field. Past lecturers include Henry Heimlich, inventor of the Heimlich maneuver, and C. Everett Koop, former surgeon general.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Information: Robert R. Pinger, professor of health science, 285-1504.

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**Posted:** Friday, March 7, 2008 11:35 AM CST

## **FEMA March 31 deadline approaching**

LAFAYETTE, Ind. -- FEMA and Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) officials are pulling out all the stops to make sure every eligible resident knows about the availability of disaster assistance. So far the agencies have used television, radio, newspapers, Internet, flyers and door to door visits to get the word out. Now they are enlisting you, the public, to help in disaster recovery efforts by asking citizens to notify their neighbors that they may be eligible to receive federal disaster help.

Snowmelt and strong storms in early January started a devastating series of flood events in northern Indiana. The widespread damage brought on a presidential disaster declaration and made many area residents eligible for federal programs designed to assist people in recovery.

Assistance comes in many forms such as grants, low-interest loans, unemployment benefits, crisis counseling, etc. Officials want to make sure they don't overlook anyone who might be eligible.

"If you had storm or flood damage chances are your neighbors did, too," said J. Eric Dietz, state coordinating officer and IDHS executive director. "Show you care and take a few moments to call or knock on your neighbors' doors to see if they registered with FEMA."

"Disasters are the worst of times," said Mike Smith, FEMA federal coordinating officer - the president's designated representative for the Indiana disaster declaration. "On the other hand, disasters tend to bring out the best in most people, so we're confident the public will help speed the recovery by talking to their neighbors."

March 31, is the last day applications will be accepted by FEMA for Individual Assistance. Eligible residents affected by these storms and flooding should apply as soon as possible by calling the toll-free registration number at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Speech- or hearing-impaired may call TTY 1-800-462-7585. Individuals can also register for disaster assistance at the FEMA Web site [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

Loan applications for homeowners, renters and businesses of any size to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for disaster-related expenses must also be completed and returned to the SBA by March 31, 2008.

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## **FEMA awards more than \$10 million**

(Created: Monday, March 10, 2008 9:03 AM EDT)

Five weeks after President Bush issued a major disaster declaration for Indiana, more than \$10 million in disaster assistance grants and loans have been issued. Federal and state recovery officials announced that today a total of 2,113 residents have applied for disaster assistance in the 21 designated Indiana counties. The following is an update of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) recovery activities as of close of business Thursday, March 6:

- 2,113 individuals (homeowners, renters and business owners) have applied for assistance in the 21 counties designated for Individual Assistance. The application breakdown by county is Allen – 80, Benton- 21, Carroll – 211, Cass – 49, Dekalb – 12, Elkhart – 230, Fulton – 130, Huntington – 4, Jasper – 151, Kosciusko – 112, Lake – 199, LaPorte – 23, Marshall – 108, Newton – 31, Noble – 19, Pulaski – 165, Starke – 34, St. Joseph – 55, Tippecanoe – 45, White – 424 and Whitley – 10.
- \$5,435,310 in grants have been issued through the Individuals and Household Program. (This assistance may be used for temporary disaster housing assistance: repairing disaster-damaged, uninsured homes to a safe, sanitary and functional condition and replacement grants for serious, disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs.)
- \$4,979,700 in low-interest loans have been approved by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). 1,655 low-interest disaster loan applications have been issued by the SBA, including 1,445 for homeowners and renters and 210 for business owners. SBA officials encourage anyone who has received an application from the SBA to turn it in as soon as possible in order to be eligible for any further assistance.
- 1407 people have visited one of the 16 Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) that are, or have been, temporarily opened in various locations to help meet the needs of disaster victims. The number of visits by location are: Jasper – 141, White – 435, Carroll – 395, Elkhart – 56, Fulton – 88, Marshall – 36, Cass – 19, Pulaski – 68, Tippecanoe – 21, Lake – 60, Allen – 45, Kosciusko – 31, Whitley – 4, and St. Joseph – 8.

Federal and state officials urge others affected by the severe storms and flooding that occurred Jan. 7 and continuing to apply immediately by calling 1-800-621-FEMA or TTY 1-800-462-7585. Phone lines will be available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily until further notice. People also may register for assistance online at their convenience at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the

effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

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# Herald Journal

## Home show brings the Great Outdoors in

**Doug Howard**

Reporter

With winter keeping a firm grip on the weather outside, the thought of spring kept many people heading indoors to check out the latest in home improvement at the eighth annual Lakes Area Home & Garden Show this weekend.

About a hundred local businesses and clubs joined vendors from across the region in filling the Brandywine Convention Center for the two-day event to peddle everything from garden tractors to quilts to security systems to pets - goods or services for just about anyone or anything in or around the home.

"This is the first time we've ever been here and we're just looking at displays," said Beverly Kofoot, who made the drive from Watseka, Ill. on Saturday. "We've got some home ideas, and maybe some remodeling - I don't know for sure."

Her granddaughter, Taylor Neill of Monticello, said she was disappointed that while Great Cats of Indiana had a display booth, they hadn't brought any of their animals with them this year.

"I really wanted to come and see that, then I heard that they didn't have them (at the show), and I was like 'Aw, man!," she said with a smile.

She took solace instead by making friends with "Peanut" - a puppy brought to the show by North Central Indiana Spay and Neuter.

Another high point, she said, was collecting all the freebies.

"I like (the show) because there are a lot of things that you can choose from - the free stuff - like balloons" she said with a laugh.

Whether they were giving out balloons or rulers or just literature - a number of non-profit and government agencies joined the private vendors to acquaint the public with home improvement options.

This was the first year for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to have a presence at the show, having come to town following a presidential disaster area designation in February.

"We provide the applicants with information pertaining to how to get assistance," said Peggy Barton, a community outreach coordinator for FEMA. "This is an excellent event for things like that."

FEMA's table was brimming with literature on flood insurance programs, Small Business Administration loans and other offerings to help those affected by this winter's floods get back on their feet.

"We're still running into people that say 'We didn't know we could register. We thought it had to be a magnitude of a hurricane or something like that. We had three feet of water in our basement, and we didn't know that we could call and register because we didn't get a lot of damage,'" she said.

"A lot of people don't realize that's what we're here for and that their tax dollars go for it," she said. "We trying to help get them back on their feet."

Getting the word out about cancer research and what the community can do to help was the goal of the nearby White County Relay For Life table.

"We really enjoy being here," said Jody Headdy, chairperson for this year's Relay committee. "We get the word out, people know when the date is for Relay. They figure out what we have to offer and what they can give us back in the way of helping us out, doing things."

Fortunately, there was plenty of opportunity to take in the show at one's own pace.

After making one lap around the show, Ernest Watson, Burnettsville, found a chair and a sunny spot in the front lobby. He said he was content to let his family contend with the crowds.

"I just dropped my brother and his son off," he said. His one trip around was enough for him to find one item on his wish list - a front end loader.

"It's on tracks," he said. "That would be nice to have. I've got a couple holes I've got to dig."

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3/8/2008 11:23:00 AM

### **National Weather Service lifts winter storm warning**

The winter storm warning has been canceled for Columbus, with snow moving out of the area, according to the Columbus Area Alert Web site.

Winds had died down, lessening the chance of drifting.

Meanwhile, crews were making headway with clearing snow from city and rural streets as sunshine replaced the snow.

A state salting and sanding truck went into a ditch about 11 a.m. on Indiana 46, near Two-Mile House Road, State Fire Marshal Roger Johnson said.

A Bartholomew County snow plow vehicle rolled over on Road 850S, east of Base Road, according to dispatchers.

No injuries were reported in either accident.

Primary streets in Columbus still were slick in spots, and secondary roads and county road remained snow covered, slick and hazardous.

In some areas of Indiana, the storm has left up to a foot of snow. Up to a foot also was expected south of Brownstown and Greensburg.

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**Posted:** Friday, March 7, 2008 8:59 AM CST

## **Be prepared for harsh spring weather**

LAFAYETTE, Ind. -- With spring around the corner, every family should be prepared to face another season of destructive storms and flooding. Every home should have a Disaster Supply Kit that includes a weather radio. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) urge all Indiana residents to act now to assemble their family's emergency supplies before the start of the spring storm season.

"Weather radios have long been a staple of storm-prone communities," said J. Eric Dietz, State Coordinating Officer. "We'd like to educate all Indiana residents to appreciate their broader applications as early warning for nearly all disasters, ranging from flood and weather-related events, tornados, snow storms....even chemical releases. They are a must for any disaster preparedness kit."

National Weather Service forecasters provide routine weather programming at all times. During life-threatening weather conditions, the radios send out a special alarm tone. This is critical, because weather can turn deadly very fast. Tornados and flash flooding are two examples which can occur when people are sleeping or unaware of the forecast. Both can be deadly if people do not have an emergency plan or enough warning so that they can get to a safe place.

With a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, you will be alerted to dangerous weather and have time to take shelter. NOAA Weather Radios also broadcast warnings and information regarding technological disasters, such as chemical releases or oil spills. They can be purchased at most stores that sell electronic devices. Most run on batteries or have battery back-up.

"Every household should also have at least a three day supply of food and water," said Mike Smith, FEMA federal coordinating officer. "Disaster Supply Kits are a central aspect of preparedness, and we ask those who have not yet assembled their kits to do so before the start of the spring storm season."

Every home should be stocked with a supply kit and when storing the supplies, keep them easily accessible in case of an evacuation.

A Disaster Supply Kit should contain the following:

Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days

Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days

Non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices, foods for infants or the elderly, snack foods, non-electric can opener, cooking utensils / fuel, paper plates, plastic utensils

Blankets / Pillows, etc.

Clothing - seasonal, rain gear, sturdy shoes

Medical supplies - first aid kit, medicines, prescription drugs

Special Items - for infants and the elderly

Toiletries - hygiene items

Moisture wipes

Flashlight - extra batteries

Radio - battery-operated and NOAA weather radio

Cash - (Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.)

Important documents - in a waterproof container

Insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, social security card, etc

Keys

Toys, books and games

Tools - keep a set with you during the storm

Vehicle fuel tanks filled

Pet care items

Proper identification, immunization records, ample supply of food and water, a carrier or cage, medications, muzzle and leash.

Visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov), [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov), and [www.in.gov/dhs/3638.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/3638.htm) for a thorough look into disaster preparedness and a more detailed list of emergency supplies. Also, [www.Ready.gov/kids](http://www.Ready.gov/kids) is an excellent resource for information on how to involve children in the process of assembling the family's Disaster Supply Kit.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

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# **Indiana, Kentucky dig out**

*Foot of snow reported in many areas*

### **By The Associated Press**

Hoosiers and Kentuckians dug out of heavy snow after a winter storm dumped a foot of white powder in some areas Friday and Saturday.

Road conditions are improving in eastern and southeastern Indiana after parts of the area were buried under 3-foot-high drifts.

Dearborn and Ripley counties are still under snow emergencies, meaning only emergency personnel are supposed to be driving.

The weather service says the town of Milan, about 60 miles southeast of Indianapolis, received 14 inches of snow Saturday - the most in Indiana.

Scattered reports of 12 inches were reported in southern or southeastern Indiana, including Madison, Aurora in Dearborn County and a rural area southeast of Salem in Washington County.

Kentucky also was hit hard. Transportation officials said Sunday they have completed snow and ice removal in most of the state, according to a statement from the cabinet.

Nearly 1,000 snow plows were used, and some crews worked 16-hour shifts.

"Our maintenance crew members and contractors worked long and hard in difficult circumstances," Transportation Secretary Joe Prather said in a statement. "But we made certain our priority routes remained open."

In Louisville, officials were able to ease concerns about water levels rising on the Ohio River due to melting snow.

The river was expected to crest Tuesday morning at just under 21 feet at the upper locks of McAlpine Dam. Flood stage is 23 feet. Officials had said Saturday they expected a crest as high as 22.5 feet.

Indiana counties along the Ohio River and northern Kentucky were hardest hit by the heavy snow storms that began Friday. Oldham and Owen counties in north Central Kentucky reported snow totals of 13 inches. The total in Louisville was the highest since a storm in 1998 that left 22 inches on the ground.

Warmer temperatures this week would help melt the snow, according to the National Weather Service.

Highs in the mid 40s were forecasted today in the area, with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow showers.

The storm forced cancellations and postponements of hundreds of weekend activities.

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## **When disaster strikes, be prepared**

Posted: Monday, March 10, 2008 10:01 AM CDT

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Every home should be stocked with a supply kit and when storing the supplies, keep them easily accessible in case of an evacuation.

### **Disaster Supply Kit**

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- Blankets / Pillows, etc.
- Clothing - seasonal, rain gear, sturdy shoes
- Medical supplies - first aid kit, medicines, prescription drugs
- Special Items - for infants and the elderly
- Toiletries - hygiene items
- Moisture wipes
- Flashlight - extra batteries
- Radio - battery-operated and NOAA weather radio
- Cash - (Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.)
- Important documents - in a waterproof container  
Insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, social security card, etc
- Keys
- Toys, books and games
- Tools - keep a set with you during the storm
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- Pet care items
- Proper identification, immunization records, ample supply of food and water, a carrier or cage, medications, muzzle and leash.

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## Keep your family safe from severe weather

Posted: March 7, 2008 06:32 PM EST

Updated: March 7, 2008 06:33 PM EST

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. - Even though snow's been in the forecast, this week is "Severe Weather Preparedness" week. 388 tornadoes have been reported so far in 2008, which is very unusual this early in the year. 67 people died from those storms (source: [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)). Many of them occurred in the southern part of the country, but in March the threat for severe weather moves north into our area. Spring usually brings severe weather and it's important to be ready. All week, schools ran drills and several counties tested their storm sirens, but some counties like Vigo, don't rely on sirens anymore. Here, the warning system is different. It's called Code Red.

"I think it's a more effective way to communicate an emergency to specific areas, specific targets, people who need to be immediately notified," says J.D. Kesler from the Vigo County Emergency Management Office.

Vigo County Commissioner David Decker agrees.

"It's a much better system than the old one," he tells News 10.

Here's how it works: in an emergency, a recorded message would be sent to your phone. Land-line phones within the county are already connected with the system, but you can register your cell phone by calling the Sheriff's Department, or logging on to the county's website (see the link attached to this story). Click on the "Code Red" icon and follow the prompts to input your name, address, and phone number. Keep in mind, the system will only contact you in an emergency situation. Commissioner Decker says the system works quickly.

"This system can call county-wide everybody in the database from 30 to 45 minutes," Decker explains.

But most of the time, it will only call specific areas that are affected. Nowadays, many of us use cell phones, that's why county officials say sirens are a thing of the past. When a siren sounds, you may not know exactly what the emergency is. A recorded message will tell you where the storm is headed, and if you live in the path of that storm. And remember, you can always tune in here to news 10 for the latest weather updates. News 10 and First Financial Bank will sponsor weather radios again this year. They will cost \$29.95 Stay tuned to find out when these radios will be available for purchase.

Check the links attached to this story for information on how you can prepare your family for the storm season. You will find out how to put together a 72-hour kit, items to make sure you have on hand in the event of an emergency, and how to prepare a family plan so everyone knows what to do.

By: [Liz Nichols](#)

WTHI-TV

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